

Sept 23rd 1940

Part 1.

Roscoe W. Brown.

( Sec C )

Pocahontas County is situated entirely within the Allegheny mountains, with the main trunk line of the Allegheny mountain forming the Eastern boundary thereof; the south-east side of the Alleghenies are steep and more abrupt than on the west side that leads off into Pocahontas County .

Following the main Allegheny mountains, and the County line , from the corner of Randolph, and Pocahontas , on the Pendleton County line to the Greenbrier County line ; many mountains , branches and V shaped valleys lead off toward the Greenbrier river ; In the ridge and valley provinces the elevation of the ridges range from 3 000 to 4 000 feet and the valleys from 2 000 to 3000 feet for the most part the valleys are narrow and rise in a series of steeply rounded hills to the main mountain tops. Narrow V shaped gaps have been cut through one valley to an other, where the streams pass through. This gives a decidedly trellislike arrangement to the drainage system to the Eastern part of Pocahontas County with the Greenbrier river as the master stream flowing south-westward.

Pocahontas County is virtually a " Birth Place of Rivers" as all drainage waters of the County are formed within its boundaries and flow outward.

It has a maximum in elevation of approximately 2666 feet and the highest average elevation of any County in the State of West Virginia. The lowest point, where Greenbrier river enters Greenbrier County is at an elevation of 1976 feet.

The streams are all swift , and for the most part still actively cutting downward. The ridges through which the branches flow are generably arable to the to the tops of the Allegheny mountain, although there are places where the mountain sides are jugged with large cliffs and rocks that aid greatly, in giving the County that picturesque scenery which it so eminently possesses. The vales are narrow and rich, and cultivated, with the streams uniformly winding through the valleys,



Beautiful homes are found interspersed along the valleys, or situated at those points that are favorable for homes, and are scattered profusely through the vales and even to the mountain tops.

The main top of the Allegheny mountain or crest along the County line presents what is supposed to be the best example of peneplane in the County, and what is probably the best in the State of West Virginia. It can be seen to the best advantage near "Top of Allegheny" where it is crossed by the Staunton and Parkersburg Turn Pike. The mountain is a broad surface with slight dissection, but preserves an even sky-line for several miles. The average elevation of the Allegheny mountain is approximately 4400 feet.

No place in the Hills of West Virginia can afford more beautiful scenery than the top of the Allegheny mountain looking east; all the mountains may be seen as they pile up, between the main Allegheny and the Blue Ridge in the "East - - Virginia".

"Allegheny" is the name that has been applied, or given to the principal trunk line of the Appalachian system or ranges of mountains in the Eastern United States. The word "Appalachian" was first used by the Spaniards under Desoto, in naming the ranges of mountains "Appalachee" in honor of the Apalachee Indians. Then later was incorrectly called Allegheny.

The word Allegheny derived from an Indian word with unascertained meaning. No matter what the word means, or meant in the Indian language, it has a ring of melody, of beauty, and a concord of musical strains.



The mountains that divide the head waters of the Greenbrier River and the waters of The Dry Fork and Glady Fork of Cheat River, and following the Randolph County line, has been locally called ~~the~~ and known as Middle Mountain but is shown on the Soil Survey Map of Pocahontas County as The "Lynn Divide". The elevation of this ridge or plateau that extends from the main Allegheny mountains to the Shavers Mountain averages approximately 3500 feet; at or near the Allegheny mountain is 4000 feet, north of the Blister Swamp is 3708 feet, at the Blister Swamp 3637 feet, where it connects with the Shaver mountain is 4065 feet.

The Shavers mountain divides the waters of the West Fork of the Greenbrier and the Shavers Fork of Cheat river, and is the prolongation of the Back Allegheny mountain which loses its self in the southern part of Tucker County near the Dry Fork of Cheat between Otter creek and they Glady Fork.

The crest or water shed of the Shavers Mountain that forms the dividing line between Randolph and Pocahontas Counties from the Staunton and Parkersburg turn pike, northward has an elevation approximately 4000 feet, with the knob <sup>tower</sup> the Gaudineer is located upon, at an elevation of 4445 feet which is the highest point.

The Back Allegheny mountain is the continuation or prolongation of the Shavers mountain from the point where the Staunton and Parkersburg pike crosses it; The watershed of the Back Allegheny divide the waters of the Greenbrier and the Shavers Fork of Cheat to the junction of the Back Allegheny and the Cheat Mountain at Thorny Flat which has an elevation of 4839 feet.

The highest point on the Back Allegheny mountain is the Bald Knob with an elevation of 4842 feet and is the highest point in Pocahontas County

A continuation of the same range of mountains or plateau divide the waters of the Elk River, <sup>and</sup> Cranberry River, and enters the Greenbrier County line north of Hills Creek. The Back Allegheny Mountain and the plateau of this region has an average elevation above 4600 feet



The highest elevation of ridges or knobs in Pocahontas County are as follows, as shown by the Geological Survey of Pocahontas County.

1st  
2nd

Bald Knob.....	4842 feet,	On Back Allegheny Mountain.
Thorny Flat.....	4839 feet,	at junction of Cheat and Back Allegheny
Cheat Mt. ....	4835 feet	South of Mace.
Spruce Knob, .....	4710 feet	On Red Lick Mountain in Edray Dis-t
Mace Knob,.....	4705 feet	South-East of Mace
Big Spruce Knob,.....	4695 feet	In Williams River section
Eleber Ridge .....	4602 feet	Spur from main Allegheny
Black Mountain.....	<sup>4625</sup> <del>4625</del> feet	Williams River and Yew Mountains
Erier Knob .....	4518 feet	South-west of Hills Creek
Ramshorn.....	4450 feet	Spur from main Allegheny
Gaudineer Knob .....	4445 feet	Shavers mountain County line.
Paddy Knob .....	4494 feet	On Allegheny South of Frost.
Top Allegheny.....	4199 feet	5.5 miles northeast of Arboreale.
Summit School.....	4335 feet	On Allegheny mountain on State line
Smoke Camp Knob .....	4218 feet	On Fork Mountain East of Thornwood.
Tenrack Ridge .....	4400 feet	On Allegheny Mountain, on State line
Tallow Knob .....	4035 feet	South of Big Spring Branch of Elk.
Gibson Knob .....	4415 feet	South east end of Slaty Fork ridge.
Guinn Ridge. ....	4250 feet	Head of Galfords creek .
Mad Sheep .....	4256 feet	On Allegheny East of Minnehaha Springs
Mad Tom . On Allegheny ...	4050 feet	East of Minnehaha
Red lick Mountain .....	4690 feet	West of Old Field Fork of Elk of Elk.
Buffalo Ridge .....	4400 feet	North of North Fork of Deer Creek.
Swage Mountain .....	4430 feet	Northwest of Buckeye...
New Mountains .....	4600 feet	Western Edra District .
Tea Creek Mountain .....	4650 feet	Southwest of Slaty fork.



NATURAL SETTING, CHAPTER THREE: ( Pocahontas County )

*Roascoe W. Brown*  
Roascoe W. Brown

( Part 1 )

*Mar 8th. 1941*

( Sec 7 )

THOMAS CREEK . Thomas Creek gives rise near the water shed of Thorny Creek near the site of the Senica C.C.C. Camp ~~and flows~~ , and flows North to connect with the Sitlington Creek  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles East of Sitlington,

It has a meandering length of 6 miles with a total fall of 900 feet , with a rate of fall per mile of 150 feet. and has ~~has~~ an area of drainage basin of 8.97 square miles.

The Thomas Creek water drainage basin, was mostly covered with the famous white pine trees, which was cut over, and operated about the year of 1885.

The Senica State Game Forest <sup>is situated</sup> , to the South and North-West , and the State Game and Fish Commission, has erected, their care keepers home , near the head of this branch .

Thomas Creek was first settled by the descendants of the pioneer John Mc Laughlin and William Mc Laughlin, about the time of the formation of Pocahontas County, whose descendants were among the most popular and prominent citizens of Pocahontas County and were natives of Ireland.

Robert Dunlap, McCutchan; settled on Thomas Creek in the year of 1826. Far and near this family would attend religious worship , the weather be what it might . For years Greenbank , eight miles away , and Huntersville twelve miles away, were the nearest nearest points of the church service of their preference.

Thomas Creek received its name from an old pioneer by the name "Thomas", who had settled for a time on the head waters of the creek, ; of whom little is known, but as long as the branch continues to flow, it will perpetuate his memory.

Some folks are of the opinion that it was named after Thomas Hatten who owned land near the mouth of Sitlington creek.



MOSES SPRING RUN. Moses Spring Run flows in to the Greenbrier River, opposite the site of the Raywood Lumber Town, 2 miles south of Cass.

It has a total length of 2.9 miles, and a fall of 474.1 <sup>feet per</sup> mile, with a total fall of 1375 feet. → - - - It has a drainage basin area of 1.86 square miles. It is situated on the west side of Greenbrier River and gives rise in one of the most copious, and beautiful Springs in Pocahontas County, - is near the residence of the late Joe McLaughlin about 2 miles west of Cass,

The Moses Spring Run received its name from one of the very first settlers of Pocahontas County; It is a small branch, of pure clear, cold water but carries with its name, and the incident that brought about its name, one of the thrilling incidents, that was common among the pioneers, and Indians of the Greenbrier Valley,.

Moses Moore settled on Knappa Creek about the year of 1770, and during the first years of his pioneer life, in the region of Pocahontas County, he spent much of his time hunting, and trapping <sup>on</sup> Back Alleghany, and the upper Greenbrier River, and the vicinity of Clover Lick.

He was a close observer of Indian movements, and would make careful search for Indian signs before resuming operations, as the hunting seasons returned. The usual place for the Indians to cross the Greenbrier River, in the hunting grounds of that region, was at a narrow place in the river, narrow enough for the Indians to vault with a pole. He would take notice accordingly which side of the River the vaulting-poles would be on, and acted accordingly. Finally the Indians seemed to have found out his strategy, and thereupon vaulted the narrow passage, and cunningly threw the poles back on the other side. This threw the hunter off his guard. It was Saturday; he set his traps, looked after deer sign, and arranged his camp.

It was the hunter's purpose to pass the Sabbath at his camp in quiet repose, and devotional reading of the Bible, he always carried with him for company. He had put a fat turkey to roast about daylight, and was reclining on a bear skin reading a lesson from the Bible, preparatory to a season of meditation, and prayer,



- before breakfast , a habit so characteristic of the Scotch- Irish at that period of time. He was interrupted by the breaking of a stick, and upon looking intently and steadily in the direction whence the sound seemed to have come, he saw five or six warriors aiming their guns and moving cautiously upon him.

Seeing there was no chance to escape, hemmed in as he was, he threw up his hands and made signs for them to come to him. he put the turkey before them and made signs for them to eat. By gestures and guttural grunting, they gave him to understand that they would not touch it, unless he would eat some first. He did so, and thereupon they devoured it ravenously, and it was no time that scarcely a fragment remained even of the bones.

Soon as breakfast was over , they started for their home in Ohio. Having passed but a few miles , they halted at what the pioneer afterwards called the Moses Spring and ever since that time the little branch, has been handed down from generation to generation as the Moses Spring Run.

The prisoner was securely bound with buffalo raw hide thongs, and pinioned to the ground. a detachment went off in the direction of Stony bottom , and were gone two or three hours. When the Indians returned they were loaded down with ore .

( It appears by the tradition that there was a lead mine somewhere in this locality)

this Ore was carried to a place where another halt was made, and the ore was smelted and reduced in weight ; so that one could carry what had required two to bring in as raw material.

The prisoner ( Moses Moore ) was taken as far as Chilacothé and the Indians seemed to have been greatly elated over their capture. So much so that as a special compliment of the Indian Squaws , it was decided in solemn council , of inquiry what to do with the prisoner; and it was decided that he should run the gauntlet.

The Indians seemed to have known of nothing so intensely amusing than running the gauntlet, and of no compliment more flattering to their favorite squaw friends than have them to form the sauntlet lines , and leave it to them to torment the captive. Accordingly two lines of squaws were drawn up about six or eight feet apart

One captive had preceded Moses Moore, who was stabbed , bruised and hacked to pieces.



This made him think it was only death any way . He entered the line and passed some distance , finally a squaw with a long handled frying pan struck him. He wrenched the pan from her and knocked her down with his fist and then striking right and left with the handle of the frying pan, he proceeded along the lines, and many of the squaws ran away . Then Moses Moore had scattered them . the warriors crowded round him patted and praised him, " good soldier " " good soldier " and decided that he should be allowed to live. By degrees he secured the confidence of his captors. In hunting he was very successful and the Indian who was his keeper would give him ammunition, a part of which he would secret. The supply of ammunition was gradually increasing, and the given <sup>time</sup> to be absent was extended two or three days .

With the increase of rations , of powder and bullets, and extension of time, he ventured to make escape, and got a start so far ahead that the Indians could see no hopeful chance of recapturing him.

Moses Run was so named by the fact that Moses Moore was bound and pinioned to the ground by the Indians near the large spring at the head of the branch . . as long as long as it continues to flow it will perpetuate the memory of Moore , one of Pocahontas Counties brave pioneers.

( The Venerable William Collins informed the compiler of the Pocahontas Historical sketches, that he was sure, that the camping spot, where Moses Moore was captured by the wiley Indians , was on the Collins place on the Greenbrier River at the Cassell fording at a place near Tub Mill ; this is in the Hosterman Vicinity.)



May 17-1941.

STEVENS HOLE RUN;- Stevens Hole Run is a small stream of little importance but has considerable local interest. It has its source in a limestone Spring just west of the State highway 0.7 mile north east of Mill Point and flows in a southward direction to the Greenbrier River one mile north east of Seebert. It has a total <sup>length</sup> of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, with a fall of 305 feet, at a rate of 122 feet per mile, with a drainage area of 3.75 Square miles.

Stevens Hole Run is so named after Steven Sewell, whom Colonel Andrew Lewis found at at Marline Bottom, in 1751 with Jacob Marlin. Steven Sewell spent a winter soon after in a small cave just at the head of the Run. There is a tradition that the same Steven Sewell was killed by the Indians some years later on big Sewell Mountain, farther down the Greenbrier River. ( But the same has been disputed by other writers ) There is a tradition story, that a certain paymaster of a certain Ohio regiment stole the payroll when here for the Battle of Droop Mountain, and hid the money in "Stevens Hole". ( Referred to a <sup>the</sup> Cave in which Steven Sewell lived ) In Bowers' book the "Tragic Era." In writing up the carpet bag governor of a certain southern state, the writer says the said governor had been accused of absconding with the pay roll of a certain Ohio regiment.

A very interesting and well delineated description of this little branch and Cave, locally known as Stevens Hole, and the authentic history that it contains is portrayed in a special editorial written for the Pocahontas Times bearing date of July 14th 1927, by Andrew Price, President of the Historical Society of West Virginia. The letter is hereby given in full because of the historical data it gives in regard to "Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell, the two first settlers of the Greenbrier Valley, and other historical data.



Thursday July 14 th 1927.

Word came that the rock work at Stephen Hole Run on the Seneca Trail had destroyed the Cave in which Stephen Sewell lived in the Indian days, so I hot footed it down there to investigate the rumor and was delighted to find the cave was still there. The big limestone cliff a couple hundred feet high faces the State highway about three hundred yards distance, It is of the Big Lime or Greenbrier Limestone and many thousand tons have been blasted off the face of the cliff for use in surfacing the road.

The quarry is where the main spring issues and what gave rise to the report that the cave had been blasted out was that the point that the work had been going on the cliff overhung and formed a kind of shelter from a rain, but in nowise filled the specifications as a den or habitation. It would be like living out of doors. The real cave is high up the cliff some two hundred yards south of the works, and it is safe for many years to come. It is not at all likely that it will ever be needed for road work.

Stephen's Hole as it is called over looks and is a hole in the wall that encloses the whole of the upper part of the valley. It is in a similar position to Cluny's Cage, that Robert Louis Stephenson tells us about in "Kidnapped" which was the hiding place of Cluny MacPherson at the time he was outlawed for the part he had taken against Cromwell, in favor of the exiled Stewart Kings. It is in the top of a cliff and hid by the trees and timber.

Stephen Hole Run or Sewell Run as it was sometimes called is a little spring branch crossing the highway a mile north of Millpoint. At this point the road to Huntersville branches off to the east and descends the little valley to Greenbrier River where it crosses at the mouth of Bever Creek up which it goes. This was the old time near cut to Huntersville; in the days when it was the county seat, and the river was low enough to ford. Above the road the run has formed a bog of a few acres in extent, and the bold clear stream that issues from it is from everlasting springs and does not vary much in volume the year around.



In the old days there was a well founded belief that if horses afflicted with the scratches, an affection of the skin in the fetlock, were watered, and their feet washed in this little stream that they would be cured, and it was the custom to bring horses there from the surrounding Levels community.

In the tourist day that is coming it will be the regular thing to halt the car at this point, and the visitors will walk some three hundred yards and climb the declivity that brings them near the top of the cliff and inspect the cave. It will also afford them the boon of the finest drinking water, as cool and clear as is to be obtained in this world of ours.

I have never seen a cave that was so well suited for a habitation as this one. On climbing <sup>to</sup> the level of the opening first is found a smooth platform sort of place perhaps thirty by forty feet in size. Next is a great roof or portico which shelters which shelters a large portion of this trace, with an outcurving roof perhaps ten feet high. Then in the wall is a room about six feet wide and ten feet deep, with a low ceiling. A fire across the opening would keep this little retreat comfortable in the coldest weather. Back in this room is an opening of unknown dimensions but extending well back into the cliff. It is very dark there and would not be suitable place for living rooms but would be an ideal place to store food and supplies. The front room is fitted with a level floor, and being open to the outer air is in good condition now without a particle of fixing to afford a comfortable place to sleep and take shelter. No stream issues from this cave, and there is no current of air. It is an ideal place for camping and is one of the sights of the County.

If you have occasion to visit it, follow the path of up by an old abandoned sandust heap. The place is Dr. H. W. Mc Neels farm, the top of the cliff being the dividing line between his farm and that of F. W. Ruckman land. Perhaps if you go into the cliff you will be on the Ruckman land as well as the McNeel-land.

As is the case of every man who has ever cleared and reclaimed land, I am something of a landscape gardener. As you drive through these pleasant valleys, you ~~will~~ <sup>should</sup> remember that it was the man with the axe whose vision splendid and whole arises.



So I see great possibilities in that little cove which has not been much more than a waste place so far. It has been talked of as a place to grow water cress and there has been some slight effort to transplant wild cranberries into the bog part of the shut in place. On the ~~other~~ every side is rich farm land but the cove has been unused except for some indifferent pasture, which in a section so solidly blue grass has not been much esteemed. With very little work there could be a little lake formed here of clear pure water. It would be surrounded by beautiful grassy shores and beetling crags would overlook it, there you would have grass, water, and a precipice in close harmony, and it would be one of the beauty spots of West-Virginia. The highway would skirt one side of the park, and Stephen Sewells everlasting house would look down on it, It would be just the right distance, eight miles, to make an attraction for the town of Marlinton, and it would be an objective for drives from Lewisburg, Ronceverte, White Sulphur Springs, and Hot Springs Virginia.

I have been weighing the somewhat slight evidence that has been left of the pioneer Stephen Sewell. He came here with Jacob Marlin in the seventeen-forties both of them long hunters. I am now informed ~~now~~ by competent authority, - Hon. Boyd B. Stutler, the historian, that long hunter is not a synonym of a tall man but was a term to distinguish the professional hunter, who crossed into the forbidden lands beyond the mountains for months stay, as compared with those who took a week or so for the purpose of providing their winter meat.

He owes his fame like Marlin and every other notable to the fact that his name got into print and was preserved that way. Owing to this fact he and Marlin have come to be first English settlers of the Mississippi Valley. Their permanent camp was where the town of Marlinton is located and where they were found by General Andrew Lewis. Marlin survived the French and Indian war, and lived to the end of his life here. He married and had a daughter who married a Drinnen, and he has descendants here now.

Marlin and Sewell had the experience of men who are too closely associated. They quarreled and Sewell left the cabin and took up his abode in a hollow tree. The two places were separated by the crystal waters of Knapps Creek



Both the cabin and tree dwelling were located in the narrow pass through which Knapps Creek breaks through to reach the Greenbrier River. This stream flows between two peaks or headland marking the gate way to the great Knapps Creek Valley one a spur of the Buckley Mountain and the other a spur of Marlin Mountain. These peaks have never been given names, and it is now proposed to name them Mary and Elizabeth, after Elizabeth Dunlap, and Mary Vance Warwick.

The people of this county have specialized on the name of Marlin, and have allowed the people in a distant part of the State to use the name of Sewell. Thus Sewell is remembered by Big and Little Sewell Mountain, Sewell Creek, Sewell Valley, the town of Sewell, and one of the measures of coal of the New River section, known as the Sewell seam.

It is the common belief based upon a tradition, that Stephen Sewell left here, and moved to Sewell Creek which flows into the Gauley River, and that he was there killed by the Indians. As a defender of tradition, I am sorry to say that I have come to the conclusion that Stephen Sewell never lived farther west than the cave at the <sup>Run</sup> ~~Run~~ that bears his name in Pocahontas County, near Millpoint.

That he lived on the waters of Gauley is due to a statement prepared by Col. John Stewart, the grand old man of Greenbrier County, in the year of 1798, And it is based on his report that Sewell moved forty miles farther west and lived on a creek that bears his name. It is not at all likely that Sewell lived on Gauley or any point west of the Greenbrier valley prior to 1756. David Tygart had to leave the nearby valley of Tygarts Valley River in 1754, and he is undoubtedly the original settler west of the long intervening valley of the Greenbrier.

At the same time, it is probable that Sewell ranged widely and Sewell Creek could have been named for him. But we have definite history of the time and place of his death. It occurred on the 11th day of September 1756, on Jacksons River, near Fort Dinwiddie. In 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker, and explorer towards Kentucky crossed the Greenbrier River at the mouth of Anthonys Creek and noted that he had word of white settlements higher up on the river.



He referred to people living at or near the mouth of Knapps Creek .

The next year the Lewises were settling whites on the lands surveyed for the Greenbrier Company . The war clouds began to gather in 1753 . France claimed all the land drained by the Mississippi . In pursuance of this claim they commenced the erection of a fort at Pittsburg. Governor Dinwiddie in 1753 sent George Washington with an ultimatum to the French to abandon their claim to Fort Duquesne, to which the French gave no heed. In 1754 Washington fought a losing campaign , and reached some agreement with the French at a place called the Great Meadows or Fort Necessity, near Brownsville Pennsylvania. Later in that year the Indians killed the Files family at Beverly, the first settlers to be massacred by the Indians in the French and Indian War. The next year the settlers on the frontier felt reasonably safe while Braddock was forming his army but even before his defeat in July, 1755, the Indians were killing on the Holston River and on the head waters of the New River

The first effect of Braddocks defeat in this section occurred just about a month after that time when the Indians appeared at the mouth of Knapps Creek and killed twelve persons and took eight prisoners . This raid ended the hostilities for the year 1755.

But in February and March 1756 they broke out again. This was caused largely by unfortunate expedition expedition led by Gen Andrew Lewis in the winter of 1755-56 against the Ohio Indians. he marched an army of 418 men clear across the State of West Virginia to strike the Indians in their towns on the Ohio. It is called the Sandy Creek Voyage . It resulted in disaster and the men suffered from want of food and from the cold weather.



Chicken House Run.- Chicken House Run is another minor tributary of the Greenbrier River joining the latter stream one-half mile south of Watoga. It heads on the west slope of the Pyle Mountain and flows almost due west for a distance of 2.8 miles. Its drainage area is 2.42 square miles.

It has a total fall of 790 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 282.1 feet per mile.

There is a tradition that the branch was so named from the fact that one of the old pioneer hunters of this section of Pocahontas County knowing that the branch was infested with Foxes and other varmints, and order to catch them, he placed a small Chicken House on a stump with one or two chickens inside the coop, then placed spring traps all around and about the Chicken House, and thereby caught many of the Foxes and Varmits by this method of enticing them with a chicken; And the branch has been thereafter called "Chicken House Run".

BEAVER CREEK:- Beaver Creek is made up of two branches with several small tributaries roughly forming a "Y" the southern branch heading well up on the west side of Beaver Lick Mountain with the northern branch heading on the east side of the Buckley Mountain to join the Greenbrier River at Violet. The old County Road from Hillsboro to Huntersville followed along this stream when Huntersville was the County Seat of Pocahontas County. Beaver Creek has a drainage area of 16.27 square miles. and has a total <sup>length</sup> ~~fall~~ of 8.6 miles with a total fall of 940 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 114.6 feet.

Beaver Creek was so named from the famous Beavers that once infested its waters.

IMPROVEMENT LICK RUN:- THE Improvement Lick Run is a small stream with a length of 3.6 miles, having its source near the top of the Buckley Mountain and flowing westward to join Greenbrier River one mile north east of Violet. So named by a pioneer who had made some improvement on his deer blind at the lick, on this particular branch, having one located on Sunday Lick, and Monday Lick Runs. Improvement Lick Run has a total fall of 835 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 231.9 feet.



MONDAY LICK: and SUNDAY LICK RUN, S

These two small Branches head near the top of Buckley Mountain and flow in a westward direction to join the Greenbrier River about 800 feet apart one mile south of Stillwell. Monday Lick Run has an entire length of 2.5 miles with a total fall of 700 feet, with a rate of fall of 280 feet per mile, with drainage area of 2.02 square miles.

Sunday Lick Run, has an entire length of 2.4 miles, with a fall of 950 feet, with a rate of fall of 395.8 feet per mile, and has a drainage area basin of 1.21 square miles.

In pioneer days Deer Licks were frequented on these branches, and fanciful names were given them by the old pioneer hunters. There is a tradition that once a hunter killed a deer on one of these branches on Sunday at one of these licks; and it was thereafter called Sunday Lick Run, Hunting on Sunday was frowned upon by the early settlers and the name was given as an enduring reproof. In order to designate the two Lick Runs the other branch was called Monday Lick Run. Lens Ridge is situated between Monday Lick, and Sunday Lick, and was so named from an old pioneer hunter by the name of Len Hunday, no doubt the branches were named for him..

STILL HOUSE RUN:- Another run of small importance heading near the north end of Buckley Mountain is locally known as Still House Run, and is the first stream south of Knapps Creek and flows into the Greenbrier River at the Lumber town of Stillwell, Its total length is 3.1 miles with a drainage area of 2.6 square miles. Still House Run was so named from the fact that a Still House was absconded away in a thicket of pines and Laurel on the branch.



SWAGO CREEK:- Swago Creek is a stream with a considerable volume of water originating largely from springs that emerge high up in the Swago Mountain and Days Mountain; near Spruce Flats. It is composed of the following branches or tributaries: Mc Blintock Run, Overholt Run, Dry Run, and Buck Run

This network of streams has cut a prominent cove between the range of Rodgers Mountain, Swago Mountain, and Spruce Flats. Swago Creek enters Greenbrier River at Buckeye, and has a drainage area of 12,92 square miles and has a total length of 3.3 miles with a total fall of 1295 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 392.4 feet. McClintocks flour mill was situated on this branch, but is now not in use.

Swago Creek has one of the oldest settlements that was made in Pocahontas County; The notable family of Ewings settled on Swago about the year 1770, having sold their land holdings to Moses Moore on Knapps Creek; William Ewing known as "Swago Bill" was living on Swago Creek in the year of 1786, he blazed a line of trees around the lands he selected, and afterwards had the tract patented. Once he was plowing when the alarm came that the Indians were preparing to attack the settlement, he hid his plow in the woods and with the other settlers made haste to the nearest fort which was Millpoint then known as Fort Day; a few days afterwards he ventured back to get his plow, and while proceeding through the woods with his plow, he was alarmed by a snapping sound, and turning to one side he saw three Indians behind a log with their guns pointed at him, they had tried to shoot but their powder was damp, and their guns had missed fire; William Ewing dropped his plow and started to the Fort fast as he could run, with the Indians after him. Going over a raise of the ground into a small hollow, he changed his course, ran up the hollow a short distance and stopped, and then saw the Indians rush by in the regular course. Ewing then made his way to the fort in safety. This was about the time that the Drennan raid occurred, when James Baker and the Bridger Boys were killed, which was in the year of 1786.



<sup>e</sup> We have been told that Swago Creek was so named from the Oswega Indians ; the 'Swago' word is compounded from the Indian word "Otsego" "Ot" meaning a place of meeting, and the word Sago" an Indian term of salutation; and the two words coined together emerged into the word SWAGO which means a meeting place- " A happy meeting place " Swago" is one of the beautiful Indian names that is common among the Alleghenies.

It has also been stated that Swago Creek was named after William Ewing locally known as "Swago Bill" Ewing , but records will show that Swago Creek will antedate that of "Swago Bill" He was named Swago Bill because he lived on Swago Creek.

On the head of Swago Creek there is a "Natural Bridge" formed by a stratum of the limestone , about forty feet ~~high~~ in length and fifteen feet high , under which the stream flows . This bridge is in a very rugged country in the forest.

MARLINS RUN;- Marlins Run is a small run of minor importance, except the local history that it bears in connection with its name-sake .

Heading near the Marlin Mountain and flowing due west for a distance of 2.7 miles through the town of Marlinton to join Knappe Creek one -half mile above its mouth, It has a total fall of 630 feet with a drainage area of 1.56 square miles

Marlins Run , has the honor of having the first persons of English or Scotch Irish antecedents to spend a winter in what is now Pocahontas County who were Marlin and Sewell This was the year of 1750-51 , Their Camp was in the delta formed by Marlins Run and the Knapps Creek . In the course of time they agreed to disagree - over the question of their Religion, they separated and was living apart when they were found by Colonel Andrew Lewis, Marlin was in the Cabin , and Sewell had taken up his abode in a hollow sycamore tree, on the west margin of the slough , quite near where the walk now crosses , and about in line with a walnut tree now standing on the east bank of the drain and the Court house.



Colonel Andrew Lewis expressed his surprise at this way of living apart from each other, when so distant from the habitation of other human beings.

Sewell told him they differed in sentiments, and since they separated there was more tranquility, or a better understanding, for now they were on speaking terms, and upon each morning "it was good morning, Mr. Sewell," and "good morning Mr. Marlin". There has been a tradition that these two men quarrelled over their Religion one being a Protestant and the other a Catholic, then again, it has been written that they differed over the form of baptism, and that "immersion was the theme of their contention.

It should be understood that these two men <sup>were not</sup> at dagger points with each other, while they lived near together on the banks of Marlin Run, they were in speaking distance.

The late William T. Price in his historical notes writes that he saw the old sycamore tree, and was inside of it many times. (from Prices Notes as follows) "The lower part of the tree bore the striking resemblance to a leaning Indian tepee. The cavity could shelter five or six persons, and the writer has been often in it for shade or for shelter from rain or heat. At the top of the cone, some eight or ten feet from the ground, the tree was not more than twenty inches in diameter, and in that height it was chopped off about the year 1839, to avoid shading the crops. Thus the stump was left for shade or shelter, until it disappeared during the war, being probably used for a camp fire. This new arrangement did not last long, and Sewell in search of less molestation about his religion, withdrew about eight miles to a cave at the head of Sewell's Run near Marvin (now known as Stephen Hole Run, See Stephen Hole Run) Then he went forty miles farther on to Sewell Creek, west Greenbrier, and was slain by Indians. (Andrew Price, Historian writes that Stephen Sewell died on the 11th day of September 1756, on Jacksons River, near fort Dinwiddie.) in Bath County.



It is moreover interesting in this connection to recall the fact that on the banks of Marlins Run , is the burial place of a little child that was dashed to death by an Indian warrior in 1756. when overtaken by a party of Bath or Rockbridge men and the Militia of Augusta County; seeking to rescue a Mrs, Mays, her son Joseph, an unmarried woman , a Mr, McClenachan, and some other captives. This burial place is ~~a few yards~~ Rods diagonally from the east angle of Uriah Birds barn on the margin of the Marlins Run.

The infant corps was buried at the foot of the tree where it had been found a few minutes after its death. The burial took place just a few hours later , before the pursurers set out on their return. The grave was dug with hunting knives, hatchets , and naked fingers. The little body was laid in the grave very tenderly, and the grave partly filled with earth . The covering of the grave was completed with rather heavy stones, to prevent foxes or other animals from getting at the remains.

Thus died and was buried the first white child known to history west of the Allegheny Mountains, on the banks of Marlin,s Run in the Town of Marlinton. As long as Marlin,s Run continues to flow it will perpetuate the name of Jacob Marlin .

The first survey that was made in what is now Pocahontas County was made ~~made~~ by Colonel Andrew Lewis in 1750 on the Greenberier , Knapps Creek, and Marlins Run. When he found Stephen Sewell, and Jacob Marlin so situate on Marlins Run which embraces the Town of Marlinton, the County Seat of Pocahontas County.



NATURAL SETTING CHAPTER THREE ( Pocahontas County )

( Part 1 )

ROSCOE W. BROWN.

( Sec D )

*Dec 13th 1940.*

The North Fork of Deer Creek , or ( North Fork Creek ) as the name is applied to the branch , is incorrectly named , the name does not mean any thing whatsoever, The branch of Deer Creek called North Fork Creek is the east branch of Deer Creek and is not the North Fork as has been named .

The North Fork of Deer Creek ( or the original Warwicks Creek ) was at first named "Cartmills Creek " in honor of Thomas Cartmill who had secured a patent or land Grant, from the Commonwealth of Virginia for 358 acres of land bearing date of June 13th 1780 while under the regime of Augusta County.

This tract of land is situated between the " Mine Bank " and the Eastern part of the Town of Greenbank including the mouth of Roan Run and is the first survey of land taken up on the North Fork Creek adjoining the Warwick lands

This branch of Deer Creek was called Cartmills Creek for a period of twenty five or thirty years from 1780 till about 1810 as shown in giving the local description of the lands situated on the waters of Cartmills Creek.

Thomas Cartmill was a Revolutionary War veteran and was sworn in as a Captain of The Virginia Militia on May 11 th 1780 ( It should have continued under the name of Cartmills Creek .) The North Fork Creek is cold and clear as crystal , has been infested with the famous mountain Brook Trout, the stream has an entire length 11.8 miles and an area of drainage of 29.48 sq miles , a total fall of 1570 feet from the source to the conjunction of Deer Creek proper with a rate of fall per mile of 131 . 9 feet .

The facility for water power mills on the North Fork of Deer Creek has led to the establishment and erection of several Water power mills on the Creek , viz, The mill of the Pioneer Wooddells, in Greenbank ; And Dr, J.P. McCrae mill, and Patrick Bruffey, and Uriah Hevener Sr, mills, on the site of the North Fork-Milling Company, Solomon Conrad mill. R.J. Browns mill at the mouth of Sutton Run Time , decay, and fire have destroyed all the water power mills located on the North Fork Creek.



### ( Hellebore Run )

The Hellebore Run is a branch of the North Fork Creek , that flows due North a distance of 3.25 miles with a fall of 950 feet with a rate of fall per mile of about 292.3 feet.

The Hellebore Run was named from the numerous Hellebore plants that grew on the run , especially on the head of the run , where the plants grew mostly in the damp and wet parts of the narrow bottom .

The Hellebore Run section was first developed by Jacob Hevener Sr a cattle raiser of Hightown Virginia, who had secured a land grant or patent of 650 acres bearing date of 1838 and later other tracts adjoining, situated on the Allegheny mountain , Hellebore Ridge , and Hellebore Run, and employed John Spencer as a tenant to clear the lands and herd his cattle, horses, and sheep, that he ranged on the Allegheny mountains, now called the Hellebore Ridge grazing farm ( but now in possession of the U.S. Forest Service ) About 1000 Acres of the Hellebore Run section was fenced up by felling down the trees .

The shining plaited leaves of the Hellebore plants put forth so early in the spring , and was so tempting to the young cattle, that they would eat the young Hellebore which is very poisonous , and would die from its poisonous effect, and from this fact that John Spenser the pioneer of the Hellebore Run , spent much of his time in the spring of the years cutting out the poisonous Helleber plants and thereby he gave it the name of Hellebore Run, and the Hellebore Ridge , one of the highest points in the State of West Virginia , received its name from the Run , whis is situated on the south west side of the Run .

The plant from which the Hellebore Run took its name , is of the Lily family, and called American White Hellebore; Indian Poke; and Itch Weed; .  
The Flowers,  
it is a native of West Virginia. Dingy, Yellowish or white green, growing greener with age.



1 inch or less across, very numerous, in stiff-branching, spike-like, dense-flowered panicles. Perianth of 6 oblong segments; 6 short curved stamens; 3 styles.

Stem: is stout, leafy 2 to 5 feet tall. Leaves: Plaited, the lower ones broadly oval, pointed 6 to 12 inches long; parallel ribbed, sheathing the stem where they clasp it; with the upper leaves gradually narrowing; the leaves among the flowers are small.

It prefers to grow in Swamps, Wet Woods, and low Meadows, and blooms between the months of May and July. And grows in the South Eastern part of the United States. The Name of Hellebore Run and Hellebore Ridge for some unknown reason is incorrectly spelled "ELLEBER" which appears in the Geological Survey records of Pocahontas County, and the Topographical Surveys of U.S. F.S. ( Should be spelled "HELLEBORE, " )



The Griffin Run , a branch of the Hellebore Run , is a small branch 1.6 miles long , with a fall of 875 feet , with 546.8 feet fall per mile and has a drainage area of 2.53 square miles.

This Branch is very rough and narrow and the mountain sides are very steep and rough but is productive. The Griffin Run for many years was called Cherry Run , until about the year of 1892 when an old mountaineer by the name of Riley Griffin , who wished to live far back in the mountains, among the wild animals , and and wild game , and game fish of the mountain streams, and enjoy the fastness, and solitude, of the virgin forest of the Allegheny Mountains, and secured by Deed a tract of land on the branch now called Griffin Run ; The land he owned was very steep almost up on edge.

By much persistence he built up a home , reared a large family, made lots of money, and always carried it in <sup>his</sup> stocking leg or boot leg, he lived sumptuously; Wild Turkey, Venison, and Bear meat was a common article of food upon his table,; He was instrumental in having the Board of Education of the Greenbank District to erect and ~~man~~ maintain a Rural School on the Griffin Run for the benefit of his own family and for the benefit of the folks on the head of the North Fork ( Which was called the Griffin School )

When the North Fork Lumber Company , was cutting out all the virgin forest of the North Fork Creek and vicinity Griffin became much displeased and because he could not roam through the virgin forest , and shoot squirrels from the <sup>the</sup> mammoth white oak trees , sold out his property , and left the country never to return. ; but the Branch will always carry his name ; Hence the name Griffin Run.

The U.S. Government now owns all the lands on the Griffin Run and the Hellebore Run also the head waters of the North Fork Creek.



CHAPTER THREE — NATURAL SETTING. (POc ahontas County )

Roscoe W. Brown      Arboreale 17V4

Part 1

Sept-27 -1940

(Sec B)

From the stand point of climate Pocahontas might be divided in two parts , that is, highlands and valleys or lowlands. Being a very mountainous country with high elevations and located on the western side of the main Alleghenies, it is subject to severe winters. the valleys , however , being protected on either side, have less severe winters. During the summer months the weather is ideal seldom averaging over 70 degrees Fahrenheit during July the warmest month of the year.

✓ Because of the wide range in elevation and the varied directions at which the mountains and valleys lie, climatic differences within the County are great. Through the western and northern parts, the winters are cold, and the and the summers are cool with relatively few hot days; the lower Greenbrier River Valley and the ridge and Valley country to the east have less severe winters and considerably higher summer temperatures. With a few exceptions the nights are cool and ideal for sleeping.

The results of killing frosts have been observed in a few places as late as June 20, and considerable frost damage to tender vegetation have been observed even in July and August. <sup>Fog</sup> Fog along the large streams and valleys in the spring and fall often prevents the severe frost damage that occurs in the adjoining uplands.

The direction of the prevailing air currents and their modifications by physiography often give a temperature variation of as much as 10 degrees within a distance of one or two miles. The Climate of Pocahontas County is a typical of a great upland mass and characterized by a range of temperature that is not affected by nearness to the sea or other modifying influences.



( BLOCK RUN)

Block Run is a small branch of the North Fork Creek 3.25 miles in length and has a total fall in feet of 1085, and a rate of fall per mile of 293.2 and a drainage area of 2.92 Square miles.

The Block Run has its source near the Top Allegheny Battle Field, and flows in a southerly direction to unite with the North Fork Creek

This Branch has been quoted as "Black Run" in the U.S. F.S. Maps. But it is locally known as "BLOCK RUN" and receives the <sup>name</sup> from the fact that about the year of 1840 Jacob Yeager and his son John Yeager had erected an Up and Down water power Saw mill, below the forks of Block Run, they built a dam across the run with stones which was a complete piece of masonry the wall was about 13 feet high and 200 feet long; the inside was filled with clay, at about an angle of one to one and a half,; When the dam was full of water it covered an acre of ground

When the gate was closed to fill the dam, to run the mill, the run was completely Blocked, The Yeager Mill Dam Blocked the Run, hence the name Block Run.



Since the virgin forest timber is practically ,all taken out of Pocahontas - County ,the winds have become stronger ; the air tends to move lengthwise of the long valley of the Greenbrier River , and the winds are deflected by the topography of the country so that at times they blow at right angles to their normal course. Winds in general blow harder at high altitudes , at night, and in the winter time, Cyclones are not a common occurrence in Pocahontas County and very few wind storms and floods that are out of the ordinary.

According to the Weather Bureau station at Marlinton, situated at an elevation of 2131 feet, the annual ( average ) rainfall is 47.26 inches, with average depth of snow 33.7 inches, and the mean temperature is 48.1 F Degrees. This, however, is not representative of conditions in the plateau sections of the north-eastern part of the County. The Pickens station in Randolph County is more indicative of the north-eastern part of Pocahontas County, it shows an average annual rainfall of more than 60 inches and a snowfall of 100 inches.

The rainfall is well distributed through the year . It is greatest during the year<sup>in</sup> summer, when needed for growing crops and pasture, and least in fall and winter. The heaviest snow fall is usually in January and February.

The average frost-free period reported at Marlinton, is 4½ months, between May 16 and October 1st. The last killing frost reported was June 17 th and the earliest Sept 6th. ( these figures are quoted from the Soil Survey of Pocahontas County issued Feb 1938 ).

It has always been a common saying and belief, by the old farmers of Pocahontas County that the East Wind will kill their buck-wheat or injure it to the extent that it won't fill, make straw but not much grain.



Generally the snows are very heavy on the Allegheny mountains, the Back Allegheny and Cheat Mountains; The Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike crosses the Allegheny mountains between Monterey Virginia , and Travelers Repose , and crosses the Back Allegheny and Cheat Mountain between Durbin and Huttonsville of Randolph County, these points where the Pike crosses the mountains which is at an elevation of approximately 4000 feet will drift full of snow , and until recent years the traffic and U.S. Mails would be held up for several weeks on account of the heavy drifting snows . In the olden times when the traffic and transportation was done by the horse and buggy , and the four and six horse wagons were common to the people of Pocahontas County., traffic would be blocked by the snow drifts on the Allegheny mountain, and the Cheat mountain the greater part of the winter time.

But of recent times when the State Road Commission is equipped with the modern snow plows , and by the construction of the modern snow fences, along the sections that are apt to drift up, the roads are thereby kept free from the snow drifts ; and every day that it snows, the snow plows are kept running both day and night to keep the roads open for the public in general.

About once a year during the winter months , there will be heavy sleet which frequently will stop the traffic , but not longer than one or two days at a time

No other weather conditions that are out of the ordinary are perceptible in the matter of shifting the County's economic welfare.



It appears to be an authentic fact that since the Virgin Forest of Pocahontas County have been cut out and especially the famous White Pine trees, that the early killing frost and the late killing frost are not so prevalent. Late killing frosts in the spring and early killing frosts of in the fall made farming a precarious source subsistence to early settlers.

As late as 1810, the fact that corn would ripen on Marlins Bottom ( now Marlinton ) sufficiently to make meal was of great interest to the surrounding settlers. Cultivating patches of buckwheat, corn, beans, and potatoes comprised most of the pioneer farming enterprise for supplementing supplies of game and fish.

The staple agricultural products are corn, oats, wheat, hay, potatoes, apples, peaches, grapes, and rye, in their approximate order named.

Of recent years it is found that Alfalfa has proven to be a successful crop. Soy-Beans have proven to be a successful crop. And Barley has been experimented with in the last few years by the farmers and find it to be a splendid paying crop.

Sweet potatoes, Watermellons, & Peanuts, have been tried out, but have been abandoned on the account of climatic conditions.

No industries of any nature have been established in Pocahontas County that have been proven to be unsuitable.



meteorological facts can best be gained by examining the records of the past years. The County is particularly fortunate in having a public building in the person of Mr. H. B. Butler of Ash Grove who has kept the meteorological records perfectly since the year of 1874. He reports that the snow has covered a day in the period of 30 years.

The public building keeper Mr. H. B. Butler who was County Clerk until 1898, kept practically a complete record of rainfall, snowfall, and temperature from 1874 to 1898, at Ash Grove.



## CHAPTER THREE.

*Roscoe W. Brown.*  
*May 3rd, 1941*Part 1 )  
Sec D)

GAULEY RIVER;- The Gauley River drainage is of minor importance of to Pocahontas County except that it has its source within the bounds of Pocahontas County limits, in three branches - North Fork, South Fork, and Middle Fork, - high up in the west side of the <sup>new</sup> ~~new~~ and Gauley Mountains. Flowing west across the acute angle of the southern end of Randolph County these three forks unite at Three Forks of Gauley at the Randolph- Webster County line and there the main Gauley continues in a general south west direction, draining, with its tributaries, all of Webster County south of Elk River. It continues well entrenched, across Webster and Nicholas Counties, to unite with New River at Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, to form the Great Kanawha. Its principal tributaries within the area touching Pocahontas are Cherry, Cranberry, and Williams Rivers.

The Gauley River has an entire length of 104 miles, as it meanders in its natural course; but has an air line distance of only 59.2 miles, with a total fall of 3,352 feet or at the average rate of 32.23 feet per mile. And according to the Geological Survey for Webster County, has a drainage area of 1350.37 square miles.

## CHERRY RIVER OF THE GAULEY.

The Cherry River heads in two forks, North and South, in south western Pocahontas County, and flows west across northern Greenbrier County into Nicholas County, to join Gauley River at Curtain. The Cherry River in Pocahontas County has a drainage area basin of 5.20 square miles.

How the River got the name of "GAULEY" or what it signifies, is a question that is vague, and obscure. Some folks are of the opinion that it was so named by the French explorers, nothing could be more natural for French explorers to call this beautiful stream Gaule after the ancient name of France.

But there is a current tradition handed down by the early pioneers of the Gauley River section, that there was a Scotch Irish pioneer hunting, and first coming out on the Rocky bluff above the mouth of Meadow River,



And was so surprised at seeing such a large River, that he used a slang phrase to give vent to his surprised feeling, at his first sight of the River, by saying "GOLLY" what a River". and from which the word Gauley was coined; .

Gauley River was called by the Miamis Indians, Chin-que-ta-na-cepe-we; And by the Delaware, To-ke-bel-lo-ke, or Falling Creek.

ANTHONY CREEK:- Anthony Creek, the largest tributary of the Greenbrier River has its source in the Greenbrier County near the Pocahontas County line and the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County. It heads on the Allegheny Mountain in the extreme north east corner of Greenbrier County but flows north west into Pocahontas County for a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles when it swings south west to enter Greenbrier County again and continues in this direction to Alton. Here it swings more to the West cutting a deep gorge between Beaver Lick and Greenbrier Mountains to join the Greenbrier River at Anthony.

It has a total length of 28.65 miles with a fall of 1470 feet, at a rate of 51.3 feet per mile. It has a total drainage area basin of 146, 93 square miles.

Only 3.7 miles of its length is in Pocahontas County with a drainage area of 6.52 square miles.

NORTH FORK OF ANTHONY CREEK;- The North Fork of Anthony Creek has the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County, but heads on Beaver Lick Mountain in Pocahontas County. It flows in a south west direction between Beaver Lick and Middle Mountains to a point  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from its mouth where it swings due South to terminate the Middle Mountain, and join Anthony Creek at Neola, it has a total length of 12.45 miles with a drainage area of 22.77 square miles.

The North Fork of Anthony Creek in Pocahontas County is 5 miles long, with a fall of 825 feet with a rate of fall per mile of 165 feet. and has a drainage area of 1.14 square miles.

Anthony Creek received its name from a friendly Indian by the name of ANTHONY



INDIAN DRAFT : - The Indian Draft , is a small branch that rises in the Elk Mountain South of Gay Knob and flows in a southerly direction to connect with Stony Creek at Campbell Town, a total distance of 5.2 miles and has a fall of 1060 feet, with a rate of fall of 203.8 feet per mile , and has a drainage area of 7.49 square miles .

The Indian Draft: is one of the small branches of Pocahontas County , that carries with it , more historical incidents , in its vicinity than any other small branch in the County; And in order to give an idea of the many events that have actually happened , upon, and around about the Indian Draft , and which incidents has lead to the naming of the " INDIAN Draft, a few of the <sup>are</sup> found in a letter written by Calvin W. Price, in The Pocahontas Times bearing date of April 10 th 1941

Which is hereby given in full:

" I have been asked to write some things I know about the Indian Draft. A draft is a narrow valley between two leading ridges. Indian Draft reaches from Elk Mountain to Stony Creek at Campbell Town. The Indians travelled it; the trails forked just below Edray. One trace, a section of the War Path from New York to Georgia went by Edray to cross Elk Mountain , and the other to Clover Lick. The first roads followed Indian trails, and our highways still do, more or less. When the Marlin Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike nearly a century ago, the route was taken up on Drennin Ridge, as accommodation to homes and farms on the ridge rather than up the water grade of the narrow Draft where no one lived below the forks.

I recall hearing back in my childhood some of the older people speaking of small bands of Indians camping at the mouth of the Indian Draft . These Indians were traveling back and forth from Ohio to Wasington. The lands around the Edray branch of the Indian Draft were first opened by Thomas Drennan. The tract embraced thousands of acres I know now that the site of the Drennin cabin was by a spring on the land of Squire A.R.Gay. In my young days no one was supposed to know exactly where the pioneer home stood , as it marked the beginning corner of one of the immense land grants, the Gallagher Survey. These Grants was the bane of settlers, casting shadow on land titles until the courts definitely decided that the best possible title was ten years



uninterrupted possession under fence. My recollection of the Gallagher Survey is the first call from the Drinnen cabin was a straight line to a black sugar in the low place on Clover Creek Mountain, eight or more miles away. I do not now recall the bearing. I can only remember when only a black hearted traitor would point out a known corner to one of these old land grants. I recall hearing of an ex-Confederate soldier working all day Sunday to dig out, split up and burn of a great red oak, back on Gallagher Flat on Days Mountain because it was a known corner of the Gallagher Survey. The home of Thomas Drennon was broke up by Indians.

His wife was taken captive and murdered on Elk Mountain a few miles from her home. I have heard that this Indian Raid was prior the Revolution, though 1797 was was probably the year. Late the Drennon homestead passed into possession of Robert Moore, son of the pioneer Moses Moore. It is likely that the first time Robert Moore set foot on the lands some day to be his own was when as a boy he came from the east, now Rockbridge County, with his father and others in the pursuit of French Surveyors and their Indian Guides. At the forks of Indian Draft the Frenchmen were ambushed. An Indian was killed and a Frenchman was wounded. Some fifty years since human remains were unearthed near the forks of the Draft.

The dispersion of the exploring party might have originated some of the legends of buried treasure on Indian Draft and in several not distant localities-- Cloverlick Marlinton, Stony Creek, and Millpoint. Near the mouth of Indian Draft on the Greenbrier River was the home of Lawrence Drennon, a brother of Thomas Drennon.

In 1764 Indians made a raid on his home. Henry Baker was shot and killed as he was climbing a fence, returning from his morning wash. Richard Hill jumped the fence and escaped unhurt. John and James Bridger were killed in the same Indian Raid.

Patrick Slaton was the School teacher in the family at that time. School House now is not far from the mouth of Indian Draft.

In 1765 Indians raided the Bath Alum settlement in what is now Bath County. The Indians started back to the Ohio with prisoners, among them a Mrs. Kayse, her son Joseph, a white girl, name now unknown, a Mrs. Sloan and her infant daughter. The third night the Indians, 3 miles down Knapps Creek from Huntersville. on the Fourth day the



Pursuing party overtook the Indians just after they had crossed the Greenbrier River at the Island Ford where the tannery is now. When the firing started the Indians killed the Sloan baby by dashing its head against a tree. The shots scared the pack horse on which the 13 year old Joseph was riding, and the boy was thrown off in a patch of nettles. The Indians escaped with three other prisoners going by way of Indian Draft. The boy was found in the Nettle patch, and he grew up to lose a leg in the Battle of Point Pleasant, 1774. The body of the murdered infant was buried near where the present Marlinton and Huntersville/ road crosses Marlin Run near the Court House. The prisoners were ransomed from the Indians at Detroit after a year or two of captivity.

In the war between the States, a Union prisoner named Vorville, knocked his guard out with a rock, at the Gay house above the Fair Ground, and escaped. At the mouth of Indian Draft he was overhauled, offered resistance and was shot.

In his diary the late Bishop Asbury, father of the Methodist Church in the United States speaks of Drannon on Indian Draft as one of his regular stopping places on his itineraries from Main to Georgia. The Bishop records he would spend a day at Drinnon prepare for, and a day at Mingo Flats, to recuperate from the twenty mile ride through the then Elk Valley Wilderness.

Indian Draft is haunted by the spirit of John Drennon, a young soldier in the war of 1812, who died of at Noffolk. The late William Gay, Sr. as a boy was returning from a mill on Knapps Creek by way of Indian Draft. The horse stopped suddenly and the mill boy looked to see what for. There in a fence corner he saw young John Drennon wrapped in a blanket, taking his rest. Before the boy could speak, the horse bolted off at break neck speed. The boy told the family he had seen soldier John on his way home and would soon hear the news of the war. When John did not appear at home he was looked for but could not be found. The matter was a mystery to the people of that day until David Cochran and John R. Flemmons came home from the war, bringing the news of the death of young Drannon. The time of his death and the time young Gay saw him the apparation beside the road coincided.



There is a tradition of buried treasure on Indian Draft. English speaking prisoners of pirates on the lower Mississippi took some of their captors treasure in escaping-- a whole pot full of it; presumably two gallons in size. Up the Mississippi, up the Ohio, up the Kanawaha, up the Gauley, up the Williams, down Stony Creek to Indian Draft. There they buried it, to wait the return from the English speaking settlement east of the Endless Mountains. So far as tradition goes the men never returned and so far as I know to the contrary the Gold and the Silver and the precious stones still await a finder. However, some say it is not on Indian Draft at all, but Cloverlick Creek or Stony Creek, or Stamping Creek are the places to look. Only a year or two ago, people from the north west of the state were here with old maps, looking for the buried treasure.

In the war between the States, the Eighth and Sixteenth regiments of Tennessee Infantry camped at Edray, on Indian Draft in August 1861.

Measles broke out and a number of men died. Their bones lie there to this day.

Fifty years ago one of the Tennessee soldiers wrote of the Indian Draft country:

"We wish we could, with proper word and in some beautiful language, give a perfect description of the scenery around about Edray; with all its clear, limpid springs of pure water, its lofty mountains reaching up into the sky "... //



**SPICE RUN:-** Spice Run has its source in several small branches high up in the Beaver Lick Mountain, and flows in a general westward direction to form the Greenbrier-Pocahontas line for some five miles to where it joins the Greenbrier River.

It has a meandering length of 6.1 miles with a total fall of 1000 feet or at the rate of 163.9 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 8.34 square miles.

The Spice Run received its name at a very early period of time, along years before the formation of Pocahontas County, and was made the boundary line between Greenbrier and Pocahontas, and was named for the Spicewood Bush, or Spice Bush which was found upon the Branch, which is an ornamental shrub of the Laurel family native to most of the Eastern United States. The small yellow flowers are followed by spicy scarlet fruits and the foliage and bark are also aromatic. The bark was formerly used in household medicine. The dried and powdered berries was used for as a substitute for all spice in the Revolutionary War and the leaves were brewed for tea in the Civil War.

The Spice Bush, which is closely related to the Sassafras, is used horticulturally. It is also called the Benjamin Bush. ( See Colum- Encyclopedia )

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**LOCUST CREEK:-** Locust Creek in a large Spring against the east side of the Droop Mountain and flows south for a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles where it is joined by a small tributary in Trump Run and continues east to the Greenbrier River at Locust Station. It is a short Run with a considerable volume of water with a slight fall. This run is a continuation of Hills Creek which sinks beneath Droop Mountain on the opposite side. It was reported that coloring matter was placed in Hills Creek and was found to emerge in the head of Locust Creek. Locust Creek has a drainage area of 9.98 square miles. has a total fall of 135 feet,.

**HILLS CREEK:-** Hills Creek heads high up in the Kinnison Mountain of Ewe Mountains and flows west for some three miles where it is joined by a small branch and turns south to form a series of beautiful falls in " Falls of Hills Creek " It continues south east, being joined by smaller branches, to a point  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Lobelia



where it sinks into the Greenbrier Limestone beneath Droop Mountain, it has a total length of 8.4 miles, with a total fall of 1525 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 181.5 feet, and has a drainage area basin of 31.60 square miles.

Hills Creek was named in honor of the Pioneer Richard Hill, <sup>whose</sup> ancestral blood courses the veins of a great many worthy citizens of Pocahontas County. It is generally believed that he came to this region soon after the armies of the Revolution were disbanded, from North Carolina. As long as Hills Creek flows and continues to pass under the Droop Mountain his name will be perpetuated. He was one of the most distinguished of the early pioneers as a scout and a vigilant defender of the Forts of Pocahontas County in the pioneer days.

BRUFFEYS CREEK;:- Bruffey Creek is a small stream with its source west of Viney Mount and flows south where it is joined by Cave Run and sinks beneath the surface one mile south east of Lobelia. It has an entire length of 3.9 miles and has a fall of 1400 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 358.9 feet, and has a drainage area of 3.80 square miles. — Bruffeys Creek was named from the pioneer John Bruffey who settled on the branch before the formation of Pocahontas County, and many of his descendants bearing his name are still living in the vicinity of Bruffey Creek.

OLDHAM RUN:- Oldham Run rises west of Burr Valley and flows in a westward direction south of Pond Ridge, and is joined by Perry and Nigh Gap Runs, and enters the Greenbrier River one half mile due east of Locust Station. It has a total length of 5.4 miles, with a total fall of 830 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 153.7 feet and has drainage area of 8.01 square miles.

Oldham Run, Received its name from Joseph Oldham who first received a land grant in the vicinity of the Branch, while under the regime of Bath County bearing date of 1809.



LAUREL RUN:- Laurel Run : Leads high up on Beaver Lick Mountain north east of Burr Post- Office and with several unnamed tributaries forms the drainage of Burr Valley . It then continues <sup>west</sup> to a point one- half mile north of Denmar where it empties in to the Greenbrier River. It has a total length of 8.2 miles with a fall of 1220 feet or at the rate of 148.7 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 13.38 square miles. This Branch was so<sup>u</sup> named by the abundance of Laurel that grew on its waters.

ROCK RUN- Rock Run is another small branch with a single tributary emptying into Greenbrier River from the East one mile above Kennison.

The Rock Run is within the bounds of the Watoga State Park , is 1.7 miles long with a fall of 780 feet with a rate of fall per mile of 146.7 Feet and has a drainage area of 1.15 square miles.

ISLAND LICK RUN:- Island Lick Run empties into the Greenbrier River from the east midway between Seebert and Kennison having its source up on the west side of Pyle - Mountain. It has a total length of 4.8 miles with a fall of 750 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 156.2 feet, with a drainage basin area of 5.12 square miles.

It lies wholly within the bounds of the Watoga State Forest Park. A fine Rock Based road with an easy grade and graceful curver , was constructed the entire length of the Island Lick Run , and many <sup>25</sup> log cabins with all modern conveniencies are erected on the Island Lick Run . The Administration Building of the Watoga State , Park , and the recreational artificial lake is situated upon the Island Lick Run.

Many tourist from all parts of the Country visit this branch yearly when the State Park season is open. This Island Lick Run received its name By the early pioneers , from the fact that there is a very large Island in the Greenbrier River near the mouth of the Run., and a deer lick was at the location of the Cabin next to the river hence the name Island Lick Run..



STAMPING CREEK:- Stamping Creek has its source in three small branches high up on the east side of the Cranberry Mountain. Its tributaries are Blue lick Run, and Tilda Fork, and other small unnamed branches. It flows in a south<sup>east</sup>ward direction, occasionally sinking beneath the limestone, but rising again near Millpoint where it is used intermittently to turn Overshot wheels to grind feed and flour, and to propel a small turbine generator. It enters Greenbrier River one-half mile north of Seebert. It has a meandering length of 6.8 miles with a total fall of 1710 feet, at a rate of 251.5 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 15.8 square miles.

The name of Stamping Creek, was first given to the Branch by the first pioneer settlers of that vicinity, which was due to the fact that there was a certain place on the creek that the Deer, Elk, and Buffalo, would meet, and was called " " the Stamping Ground, which eventually emerged into the name of Stamping Creek.



NATURAL SETTING CHAPTER THREE (Pocahontas County)

Rozcoe W. Brown . Arbora = 11.4.1

Jan. 25th 1941.

( Part 1 )

Sec D )

BRUSH RUN - The Brush Run is a small branch, flowing in a westward course entering the Greenbrier River at Boyer Station on the Greenbrier River and has<sup>a</sup> total length of 6.7 miles with a fall of 770 feet, with a fall 114.9 feet per mile, and has a drainage area 7.40 square miles, as shown by the Geological Survey of West Virginia.

<sup>Branch was</sup>  
This<sup>^</sup> the natural outlet and route, for the greater part of the timber industry in Pocahontas County, situated on the waters of North Fork and Deer Creek.

The M.P. Bock Lumber Company that first began to operate in this section, in the year of 1901, erected a Band Saw Mill at the mouth of Brush Run, on the Greenbrier River and built the first Log Railroad up the Brush Run, and crossed the divide or Little Mountain, on the waters of Deer Creek; And all the many different Lumber Companies, (except the Range Lumber Company, and A.V. Miller Company) that operated the timber, on the waters of Deer Creek and North Fork, shipped their timber and lumber, down the Brush Run, to connect with the C. & O. Rail Road at Nottingham; The Railroad on the Brush Run was in use, from 1901, to 1926. a period of 25 years, which was the period of time, taking out the virgin forest of Deer-Creek, and the North Fork Creek.

The ~~Brush~~ Run did not receive its name from the fact that there were plenty Brush<sup>to be found</sup> on the Run, as many folks believe;

In the year of 1795<sup>6</sup>: Charles Gallagher made a survey of 32000 Acres of land which covered nearly all the waters of Brush Run; In the course of a few years, the large survey was acquired by a man by the name of " BRUSH " and the survey thereafter, was known as the Brush Survey, and the Run that was almost entirely in the bounds of the Brush Survey, was named The " BRUSH RUN".  
in honor of the pioneer Land owner.



FURNACE HOLLOW- The Furnace Hollow is situated on the north side of Deer Creek, on the Little Mountain side, formerly on the lands of the pioneer Warwicks, now owned by Willie Sheets. At the mouth of the hollow a score or more of Furnaces or enclosed fire places were built, supposed to have been build by the Indians the reason for which is not known; The pioneer John Warwick that settled nearby - about 1770 - never knew the purpose of the furnaces, they were about three feet wide, and six feet long, and about three feet high, they are now all fallen and look like piles of rocks, The pioneers learned from the Indians that some profound secret appeared to enshroud the the "Furnace Hollow" and the "Mine Bank;" For long generations the Indians had followed the same paths beating them down deep in the forest earth, and the pioneers that made the settlement near the forks of the Deer Creek, at the Furnace Hollow, and the Mine Bank, recited the fact that the Indian trails appeared to diverge in every direction, from the vicinity of the forks of Deer Creek. It appears that this section of the country was a special meeting place of the Indians in prehistoric times.

When the Indians saw the pioneers building the Warwick Fort, at the forks of Deer Creek, which is between the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow, they were exasperated, and many skirmishes occurred afterwards, when they saw that they were going to lose their hunting, camping, and fishing grounds.

We have it by a direct line of tradition that a band of about forty Indians returned to their old camping ground, near the Mine bank, on a friendly mission which may have occurred about the year of 1800. Any way it did not occur till after Mad Anthony Wayne had brought about a treaty with the Indians in 1795.

These Indians were old warriors, with their wives, and some Indian Boys; Their camping place was on the lands of Andrew Warwick, in his sugar orchard, which is now owned by Gratz Slaven, and may have been near the location of the Fraternal Park.



The line of tradition of the return of the Indians, to the vicinity of the Furnace Hollow, and the Mine Bank is, that Elizabeth Warwick, who became the wife of John Slaven, on April 3rd 1783, and was living on the Breentrrior River near the Town of Frank; in company with her daughter Annie Slaven, decided to spend a few days with her brother, Andrew Warwick. upon their arrival their horses became terribly frightened when they rode into the camp of the Indians, but their fear was soon assuaged, when they saw some white folks standing near by, and learned that the Indians were not on the war path.

The Indians were lounging around on the ground, watching the boys shoot birds from the tops of sugar trees, with bow and arrows. The Indians said, they were passing through the country, visiting the graves of their fore fathers, for the last time; At least they left that impression on the minds of the early settlers.

Many prospectors, have visited the Mine Bank and "The Furnace Hollow", with maps, or plats, showing the delineation of the vicinity, of the junction of the North Fork Creek, and the Deer Creek, the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow.

The Maps appeared to divulge the fact, that upon finding a certain keystone, or rock, therefrom by a certain bearing given, would lead the way, to some hidden treasure, mineral, or some natural compound of metal, or other treasure.

But however, the enigma, that enshrouds the Mine Bank, and the Furnace Hollow, is left for the writer of romance. Within the past twenty five years, the Mine Bank has caught on fire, twice; and has burned for a year at a time. The Mine Bank is first mentioned in the land records, in giving the local description of the Thomas Cartmill Patent, bearing date of June 1780. and is called for near the Mine Bank, (and is near where the Bank catches on fire.)

The Furnace Hollow received its name from early pioneer Warwicks who so the Stone Mason Furnaces that were found, at the mouth of the Hollow



SITLINGTON CREEK:- Sitlington Creek is one of the most important streams to the Greenbrier River in Pocahontas County, and has its source in Galfords Creek high up in the Alleghany mountain; It flows in a general south-west direction to Michael Mountain, where it is joined by Shock Run; ( formerly called Buzzard Creek ) the two uniting to cut a wide pass through the range at Dummore, and is joined again by Thomas Creek  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Sitlington, where Sitlington Creek empties into Greenbrier River.

Other tributaries are Moore Run, (formerly called Henches Run ) Gum Branch, Jakes Run, Story Run, and Left Prong (of Galfords Creek ) Sitlington Creek, has a total length of 14.5 miles with a fall of 1980 feet, and a rate of fall of 136.5 feet per mile; and has a drainage area of 51.06 square miles.

Sitlington Creek, is the third largest stream in Pocahontas County that flows into the Greenbrier River. This stream was so named by the fact that Robert Sitlington, was the first permanent settler on the Branch, and the eastern part of Pocahontas County. His home was in the site of the town of Dummore.

A brief history of the name sake of Sitlington Creek, as follows:-

The father of Jacob Warwick came to Augusta County, from Williamsburg Va, during Colonial times between 1740 and 1750. He was a lieutenant, in the service of the British Crown, and was employed in surveying lands in Augusta County, and what is now Pocahontas County; this Lieutenant Warwick located and occupied the property now embracing the village of Dummore, situated on the Sitlington Creek and secured this property for his own use. He married Elizabeth Durlap, near Middlebrook, and he was one of the English gentry, whose families settled in Virginia, in consequence of political reverses in England. After this Lieutenant Warwick concluded to visit England, which he did, but never returned, and being heard of no more he was given up for dead; in the meanwhile, Mrs Warwick settled on the property, on Sitlington Creek, where the town of Dummore is now situated, and had it secured by Deed, to her son Jacob Warwick, and then afterward married Robert Sitlington, but remained at Dummore a number of years after her second marriage.



Soon as Jacob Warwick came to manhood , Robert Sitlington moved to his own prop-  
erty near old Millboro. <sup>Jacob</sup>  
Jacob Warwick who now owned the Dumore property,  
always cherished the highest filial regard, for Robert Sitlington his step father,  
and for whose honor the branch was named . The Railroad station at the mouth  
of Sitlington Creek, was so named in honor of Robert Sitlington, the pioneer  
and Revolutionary War Veteran.

Robert Sitlington, s Affidavit as a Revolutionary War Vetern is as follows:  
County  
ROBERT SITLINGTON: BATH, Sept 26th 1832. ( Date of Affidavit )

Born -1749 . In 1776. went out as substitute two months for  
Nathan Crawford, serving as ranger and Spy at Wafwicks Fort under captain  
John Lewis and Captain Samuel Vance. Drafted 1777 to serve against the Indians  
at Warwick, and Cloverlick Forts, under Captain Samuel Vance , and Lieutenant-  
John Cartmill. Served four or six weeks against the British 1778-1779. under  
Captain John McCoy. Discharged at Richmond. Drafted for six weeks in 1781 and  
marched under Captain David Gwin to Guilford ; was in the battle.



( Part 1 )

( Sec D )

Roscoe W. Brown.

*Feb 8th 1944*

**GALFORDS CREEK:-** Galfords Creek , the head waters of Sitlington Creek from Glade Hill Eastward have been locally known as Galfords Creek from the very earliest settlement of of this region of Pocahontas County <sup>Thomas Galford</sup> settled on Galfords Creek then called Sitlington Creek, about the year of 1782, was a tax payer at that date . The Pioneer Thomas Galford secured a Land Grant of 154 Acres of land situate on Sitlington Creek , bearing date of 1794 , and is now the same land, owned by Wade Galford and Charley Wilfong, on Galfords Creek East of Glade Hill; There is a tradition ~~that~~ handed down among the Galford descendants that the pioneer Thomas Galford , gave a Bear Trap for his first homestead on Galfords Creek, this could have happened in the way of barter , and no record made of the transaction.

Galfords Creek has two branches , known as Right hand prong, and Left hand ~~prong~~ prong ; The left hand prong is known as the Big Spring Branch of Galfords Creek, which gives rise in a very large Gravelly Spring , known as the Big Spring; This Spring is situated at a very high altitude, in the Alleghany Mountains between the Ramshorn mountain, and the Guinn Ridge .

The main Galfords Creek , or Right hand prong, has a total length of 6.1 miles , with a total fall of 1125 feet, with a rate of fall per mile , of 184.4 feet per mile, and has a drainage are basin of 8.65 square miles .

The Left Hand Prong known as the Big Spring branch has a length of 3.2 miles , with a total fall of 1250 feet, with a rate of fall per mile, of 390.6 feet, and has a drainage basin area of 2.48 square miles.

The Virgin forest of the Galfords Creek was taken out by the North Fork Lumber Company, and the Haywood Lumber Company , in the year of 1926. The Galfords Creek was heavily timbered with the famous Hemlock trees, which kept the sunshine from the stream , and thereby made it favorable for the Mountain Brook Trout, which infested its waters clear to the head springs .



Some of the first settlers on upper Galfords Creek was Ludy Taylor ., and Samuel Posten who had settled on the lands that was later occupied by Richard Hudson. The name " Galfords Creek" was so named by the early settlement made by the pioneer Thomas Galford, and the historical incident that happened in his family, which was the primary cause, in naming the branch 'Galfords Creek."

The Story in brief, as follows:- It is a matter of authentic history, that Thomas Galford was living with his family on what is now Galfords Creek, when the Indians were still making raids throughout the country. His daughter Elizabeth 14 years of age was sent on an errand and was never heard of afterwards ; word was sent to all the settlers far and near , and vain search was made ; while searching along the creek thinking she had fallen in the water and drowned, they found a large Indian trail , the tracks of the girl, some bits of cloth, and other signs which gave evidence that Elizabeth had been captured by the Indians. The trail was followed till it became so obscure that, the idea of recapturing the girl was given up for the time. A few month subsequently Thomas Galford with a man by the name of Samuel Gregory , went on through to the Indian villages in Ohio but found no evidence of the missing girl. There is a tradition , or true story, that upon their return, they captured two fine horses from the Indians , and knowing that they would be followed, by the Indians, returned on their own trail, and in ambush shot two or three of the Indians , which put a check on the pursuit, and then by travelling all night made their escape back home. The ornaments and trachelets, were taken from the Indians , which was burned when Thomas Galford Junior, lost his house by fire . The captured horses were two fine stallions , the bay was called " Buck Rabbit" and the other " Irish Grey" Buck Rabbit was sold to John Bird , the ancestor of the Bird relation of Highland County . The other was bought by John Harness a trader from Staunton ( SEE Prices History for this note, )

The fact that Elizabeth Galford was captured by the indians , is an authentic historical fact, It is one of the tragedies common among the early settlers of the Greenbrier valley, while this incident occurred more than one hundred and fifty years



- and as long as Galfords Creek will ripple on toward the sea, placidly, with its eternal scheme of nature, it will serve as a marker or monument to perpetuate the memory of <sup>the</sup> capture of Elizabeth Galford by the Indians.

STONY RUN;- Stony Run is the largest branch that flows into the Galford-Creek, it has an entire length of 3.3 miles with a total fall of 1400 feet and has a fall of 442.2 feet per mile, with a drainage area basin of 4.30 square miles.

The Warn Lumber Company built a standard gauge Railroad up Stony Run and crossed the Allegheny Mountain at the head of Stony Run and went down on the waters of the Ruckman Draft <sup>in Virginia</sup> and hauled quite a lot of timber from the South of the Allegheny Mountain to the Lumber Mill at Raywood near Sitlington, The undertaking of hauling timber across the Allegheny and keeping up the Railroad ~~was~~ was a very expensive undertaking, and the project was abandoned leaving much of the virgin forest on the South side of the Allegheny mountain.

Whereas the Railroad crossed the Allegheny Mountain at the head of Stony Run, the elevation is near about 4000 feet.

The water of the Stony Run is clear as crystal and was ice cold before the virgin forest was taken out; The bottom land of the Stony Run is very rocky and at the mouth of the Run where it flows into Galfords Creek it is completely covered with small creek worn stones, and thereby it has been called STONY RUN for many years.



**THORNEY BRANCH-** The Thorney Branch: is a small branch that flows into the Sitlington Creek West of what is termed as Galfords Creek, and gives rise near the divide of the waters of Rosin Run. The Thorney Branch has an entire length of 3.8 miles with a fall of 450 feet, with a <sup>fall</sup> of 118.4 feet per mile, and has an area of a drainage basin of 1.78 square miles.

The Thorney Branch valley was originally covered with the famous White-Pine timber. The virgin White pine was taken<sup>n</sup> out by the Sliding system about the year of 1890. The slide was built by hewing one side of the logs and piling them down <sup>to</sup> a short log forming a V shaped gutter for the logs to slide in, the team of horses was hitched to the rear log which was called a bumper, about 25 or 30 logs would be rolled in the slide each being separated a few inches or feet, by the use of a Trail Bar; The slide would be well watered, by the use of a water barrel which was run over the Slide before the logs were rolled in. Sliding was done in freezing weather, The Bumper log in the rear was hauled by a "J" Grab so that if the trail ran away the team would be free from entanglement.

The Thorney Branch, received its name from the many thorn trees that grew on the branch, and the variety that seemed to grow most abundantly was the "Dotted Thorn" which can be identified by the large red or yellow fruit which gives it a very attractive appearance in the fall. Some times the tree will grow 35 feet in height, with a diameter of 8 to 14 inches, The trunk is thick and short, and the crown is very broad and flat-topped.

The Bark is gray with thin scales on old trunks and the branches are covered with straight thornes which are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long.

The leaves are alternate, simple, tapering at the base, almost blunt pointed at the apex and irregularly serrate or sometimes lobed.

The Flowers appear in May and June and are white. The fruit ripens in the fall.

The Wood is heavy, hard, and close grained. This tree prefers rich sandy soils of mountain borders and grows in thickets. It is a common tree of high elevations and is of no importance commercially.



SHOCK RUN;- Shock Run is that branch of Sitlington Creek that flows on the North-East side of the Michael Mountain and connects with Sitlington Creek near the Gap at the North-East end of Michael Mountain .

This Branch was formerly called Buzzards Creek , for about 100 years. Ruben Buzzard the progenitor of all the Buzzards of Pocahontas County settled on this Branch and the most of his children settled on this Branch or very near to it, and the vicinity was locally known as "Buzzards Roost"

The State Highway passes through the BuzzardCreek Valley and in the hay harvest time , hay SHOCKS may be seen by the thousand , and some folks passing through nick-named the Branch, " Shock Run " in correspondence of the many Hay Shocks that could be seen in the meadows, the name seems to cling to the the Run , which was locally known as Buzzards Creek.

The Shock Run or Buzzards Creek Has an entire length of 3.9 miles with a total fall of 1380 feet, with a fall of 358.3 feet per mile , and has a drainage area basin of 10.65 square miles .

This Valley is a fine farming section, and has been well adapted to fruit raising, and there is plausible reason for believing that the largest apple tree in Pocahontas County, and it may be even in West Virginia, may be seen near the place where Reuben Buzzard built his frontier home. It measures three feet and six inches in diameter . the branches were about 40 feet long. Seventy five bushels have been gathered from this tree at one time. ( See Prices History of Pocahontas County concerning this large Apple tree. ) This Branch should continue under the name of Buzzards Creek in honor of the old Pioneer Reuben Buzzard which bore his name for a century or more .



( Part 1 )

( Sec D )

Roscoe W. Brown.

*Feb. 8th 1946*

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